



SR0243

LRB098 11780 NHT 44858 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, This State's students lack the financial literacy  
3 necessary to manage finances in adulthood; and

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WHEREAS, According to the 2011 Consumer Financial Literacy  
5 Survey Final Report of the National Foundation for Credit  
6 Counseling, 41% of adults in the United States, or more than  
7 77,000,000 adults living in the United States, gave themselves  
8 a grade of C, D, or F on their knowledge of personal finance;  
9 and

10

WHEREAS, According to the National Bankruptcy Research  
11 Center, the number of personal bankruptcy filings reached  
12 1,500,000 in 2010, the highest number since 2005, and, in 2011,  
13 the percentage of total consumer filings increased from 2010;  
14 and

15

WHEREAS, The 2011 Retirement Confidence Survey conducted  
16 by the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that only 13%  
17 of workers were "very confident" about having enough money for  
18 a comfortable retirement, a sharp decline in worker confidence  
19 from the 27% of workers who were "very confident" in 2007; and

20

WHEREAS, According to a 2011 "Flow of Funds" report by the  
21 Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, household

1 debt stood at \$13,200,000,000,000 at the end of the third  
2 quarter of 2010; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the 2011 Consumer Financial Literacy  
4 Survey Final Report of the National Foundation for Credit  
5 Counseling, 28%, or nearly 64,000,000 adults, admit to not  
6 paying all of their bills on time; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the 2011 Consumer Financial Literacy  
8 Survey Final Report of the National Foundation for Credit  
9 Counseling, only 43% of adults keep close track of their  
10 spending, and more than 128,400,000 adults do not know how much  
11 they spend on food, housing, and entertainment and do not  
12 monitor their overall spending; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the 2011 Consumer Financial Literacy  
14 Survey Final Report of the National Foundation for Credit  
15 Counseling, one in 3 adults in the United States, or more than  
16 75,600,000 individuals, report that they have no savings, and  
17 only 22% of adults in the United States are now saving more  
18 than they did a year ago because of the current economic  
19 climate; and

20 WHEREAS, According to the Gallup-Operation HOPE Financial  
21 Literacy Index, while 69% of American students strongly believe  
22 that the best time to save money is now, only 57% believe that

1 their parents are saving money for the future; and

2 WHEREAS, According to the University of Wisconsin, 89% of  
3 teachers in grades kindergarten through 12 believe that either  
4 financial literacy courses or passing a financial literacy  
5 competency test should be a requirement for high school  
6 graduation, but only 20% of teachers rate themselves as "very  
7 competent" to teach financial literacy; and

8 WHEREAS, Expanding access to the mainstream financial  
9 system will provide individuals with less expensive and more  
10 secure options for managing finances and building wealth; and

11 WHEREAS, Quality personal financial education is essential  
12 to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money,  
13 credit, and debt and to become responsible workers, heads of  
14 households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and  
15 citizens; and

16 WHEREAS, Increased financial literacy empowers individuals  
17 to make wise financial decisions and reduces the confusion  
18 caused by an increasingly complex economy; and

19 WHEREAS, A greater understanding of and familiarity with  
20 financial markets and institutions will lead to increased  
21 economic activity and growth; and

1           WHEREAS, This State has appropriated \$290,000 from the  
2           General Revenue Fund to the State Board of Education for  
3           economic education; and

4           WHEREAS, Significant functions of government are to  
5           provide primary and secondary education to the public and to  
6           otherwise improve the prosperity, health, and general welfare  
7           of the inhabitants of this State; therefore, be it

8           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
9           ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that there is created the  
10          Financial Literacy Task Force consisting of 3 members of the  
11          Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom  
12          shall be designated the chairperson by the President of the  
13          Senate, and 2 members of the Senate appointed by the Minority  
14          Leader of the Senate, all of whom shall serve without  
15          compensation but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and  
16          necessary expenses from funds appropriated for that purpose;  
17          and be it further

18          RESOLVED, That the Financial Literacy Task Force shall  
19          design publications and website media to promote financial  
20          literacy education; and be it further

21          RESOLVED, That the Financial Literacy Task Force shall

1 establish an Internet website for teachers, students, and  
2 parents that would serve as a clearinghouse and coordinated  
3 entry point for accessing information about financial literacy  
4 programs, as well as publications, grants, and materials that  
5 promote enhanced financial literacy and education; and be it  
6 further

7       RESOLVED, That the Financial Literacy Task Force shall  
8 conduct a formal review of the current personal finance  
9 standards taught in grades 9 through 12 and recommend  
10 revisions, including, but not limited to, integrating  
11 financial education into reading, language arts, and  
12 mathematics, and such recommendations shall be presented to the  
13 State Board of Education for consideration of statewide  
14 applicability; and be it further

15       RESOLVED, That the Financial Literacy Task Force shall  
16 conduct a formal review of the benefits of implementing  
17 financial literacy education in grades kindergarten through 8;  
18 and be it further

19       RESOLVED, That the Financial Literacy Task Force shall  
20 create a proposal for implementing financial literacy  
21 education in grades kindergarten through 8; and be it further

22       RESOLVED, That the Financial Literacy Task Force shall

1 develop and report to the State Board of Education the means to  
2 include in existing standardized achievement testing for  
3 grades 9 through 12 the personal finance concepts of (i)  
4 decision-making, (ii) earning an income, (iii) saving and  
5 spending, (iv) use of credit, and (v) budgeting; and be it  
6 further

7       RESOLVED, That the Financial Literacy Task Force shall  
8 receive the assistance of legislative staff, may employ skilled  
9 experts with the approval of the President of the Senate, and  
10 shall report its findings to the General Assembly on or before  
11 January 1, 2014; and be it further

12       RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education shall provide  
13 administrative and other support to the Task Force; and be it  
14 further

15       RESOLVED, That State Board of Education shall fund the  
16 costs to prepare the proposals and studies mandated by this  
17 resolution with its economic education appropriations; and be  
18 it further

19       RESOLVED, That the members of the Task Force shall be  
20 reimbursed for their travel expenses from appropriations to the  
21 State Board of Education available for that purpose and subject  
22 to the rules of the appropriate travel control board; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That upon filing its report with the General  
3 Assembly, the Task Force is dissolved; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
5 delivered to the State Board of Education.